

June 18 1944
72 Crawford St.
Newark 2 N. J.

Mr Wendell Smith
Pittsburg Courier
Pittsburg Pa.

Dear Smitty:

I am putting this note in with the release to tell you a little story, and ask for some cooperation. I asked Abe to speak to you, I hope he did. It is about the Brooklyn situation. It is very messy. When I found out the booking agents had secured July 2nd for Kansas City and The Cubans, and I knew I had July 4th for The Eagles and The Cubans, I asked Gottlieb and Leuschner to put both games on one windowcard. Gottlieb said he had nothing to do with the game, and Leuschner bluntly and flatly refused to cooperate saying he was not interested in the July 4th game. I explained two sets of cards for two games so close together, (especially having The Cubans in both of them) will look very bad. I could not get him to agree so I had to get busy. As it is amaybe things will work out better this way.

I had already planned a war bond day in Newark, the Sunday July 2nd when The Grays play here, we are going to try and raise enough money at the park to help to buy a fighter plane. So I have decided to make July 4th in Brooklyn "War Bond Day". Mrs Bethune is trying to raise enough money to buy a Liberty Ship named Harriet Tubmann. She had already asked a Brooklyn woman, Mrs Margaret Brown, to act as N.York Chairman. Mr George Wibecan will do the speaking (and he is quite a speaker). Joe Bostic and Tommy Watkins are both going to work with us. What I am asking you to do is see if The Courier will carry a story about Harriet Tubmann, so our folks will know more about her, also to find out just what Mrs Bethunes program is and help with her campaign. I imagine her office will get in touch with your paper directly. I think Mrs Nell Hunter is the person in charge in Washington.

Leuschner was trying to tie the Brooklyn park up so all the teams would go in there under his promotion. He was after The May 21st date when The Eagles and Grays played, and tried hard to get the July 4th date also. It is too long a story to go into now, but I wish I could see you soon. PLEASE do not use this material for publication at this time, as I do not think any good purpose will be served. The first thing I have to do is try to make July 4th a success, so we will be able to get the dates we want in Ebbetts Field, so the teams will not have to pay booking fees.

I will send you more information as I get it. In the meantime I hope we do something worthwhile in these two efforts. I would love to see the baseball do something, as it is we are still making no contribution at all.

Thanks in advance, Sincerely

Please keep all this confidential for the present.